

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

Operator: Slawson Exploration Company, Inc.
Well Name/Number: Rascal 1-18H
Location: SE SE Section 18 T23N R53E
County: Richland, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 25-35 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick rig 900 HP. Drilling to 13,708' MD/9,382' TVD.

Possible H₂S gas production: Slight

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Single lateral, 13,708' MD/9,382' TVD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes intermediate string casing hole will be drilled with oil based invert drilling fluids. Oil based invert drilling fluids for horizontal leg. Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.

High water table: No high water table expected.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to East Redwater Creek, about 1/8 of a mile to the west from this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest nearby wells are about 1/2 of a mile to the northwest and 3/4 of a mile to the northwest of this location. Depth of these wells are 200' and less in depth. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and surface casing will be cemented to surface from 1550'.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sand clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages.

Mitigation:

☒ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: _____

Comments: 1550' surface casing to be set to protect freshwater zones and to cover the Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems in and around freshwater slough.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings: None anticipated.

High erosion potential: Yes, location will require moderate cut, up to 17.2' and moderate fill, up to 15.7', required.

Loss of soil productivity: None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, very large well site 450'X420'

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is cultivated land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☐ Other _____

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, #313. An access road will be built into location off the existing county road, 313, about 822' new road will be built into this location. Cuttings will be buried in the lined reserve pit. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Completion fluids will be hauled to a Class II disposal. Pit will be allowed to dry before being backfilled. No concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residences are 1 mile or further in any direction from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight

Size of rig/length of drilling time Triple drilling rig 25 to 35 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Distance sufficient to mitigate noise problems.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat No

Conflict with game range/refuge management No

Threatened or endangered Species Threatened or endangered species listed in Richland county by USFW service are Pallid Sturgeon, Piping Plover, Interior Lease Tern and Whooping Crane.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☐ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Private cultivated lands. No concerns.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

 avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

 X other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

 Other: _____

Comments: Private cultivated lands. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

 Substantial effect on tax base

 Create demand for new governmental services

 Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

A single lateral Bakken horizontal well, 13,708' MD/9,382' TVD.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): Steven Sasaki

(title): Chief Field Inspector

Date: July 24, 2010

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website.

(subject discussed)

Water wells in Richland County

(date)

July 24, 2010

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA
COUNTIES, Richland County
(subject discussed)

July 24, 2010
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____